

Vermont State Hospital  
Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/08/2007

Attendance: L. Thomson, K. Plummer, D. Bogdan, D. Mitchell

The meeting was called to order at 1005 hrs.

Discussion

- 1) The minutes from the meeting of 10/10/2005 were reviewed and approved.
- 2) Vera Hanks School of Psychiatric Technology: Reviewed proposed changes to curriculum. Modules include:
  - a. Fundamentals of Patient Care
  - b. Overview of Mental Illness and Treatment (Parts I & II)
  - c. Basic Therapeutic Communication Skills
  - d. Pharmacology
  - e. Leadership Skills
  - f. Hospital & Community Mental Health: A System of Care
  - g. Working with Groups and Advanced Therapeutic Communication

Discussed involving VPS and VP&A as well as the Department of Mental Health as guest faculty. Consider including info on Trauma, Recovery, Legal Issues. Also consider inviting former patients to be guest faculty. It was also thought that providing an overview of the role of the psychiatric nurse would be helpful. A suggestion was made to use video recording of staff's reactions to situations as a learning tool. Dr. Thomson offered to include education on Positive Behavioral Support once it is fully developed.

- 3) Educator: Leah Matteson has been hired as a second educator. She is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Community Health and is enrolled in a program to become a Nurse Practitioner in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing. She will begin orientation 12/3/2007. Once oriented, she will share duties in providing orientation, assist with revising the Vera Hanks curriculum, and help to offer in-house inservices, among other duties.
- 4) Future of the Group: Unless directed otherwise, the group will continue to meet quarterly as long as the attendees feel that there is value to doing so.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 14, 2008 at 1000 hrs. in the Nursing Classroom at VSH.